



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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SENATOR ALEX DIAZ de la PORTILLA

President Pro Tempore
36th District

November 13, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Support for Consensus Plan for 800 MHz Realignment
Ex Parte, WT Docket No. 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to express my support of the Consensus Plan before the Federal Communications Commission and also express my concerns with the current situation. First responders are increasingly at risk due to interference from cellular phones. The onslaught of cellular phone usage has created a severe problem here in Florida, and across the nation. As usage increases, the risk of garbled or blocked police, fire and other public safety communications also increases. First responders urgently need more 800 MHz spectrum to have "interoperable" communications among police and firefighters and among neighboring jurisdictions.

Currently, there exists a solution. The FCC has before it a "Consensus Plan" that would address interference problems. The Plan provides a comprehensive solution that not only addresses the interference problems, but allocates additional spectrum for public safety needs, provides private funding to compensate licensee that may need to relocate to new channels, and ensures that all affected licensees receive equivalent replacement spectrum.

In short, this plan is a thorough and effective solution that would prevent disastrous consequences should no action be taken or other plans adopted. For example, the UTC/cellular "plan" suggests a case-by-case approach, which could potentially jeopardize the lives of emergency personnel and the citizens they serve. Public policy should be proactive, and the Consensus Plan uses that approach.

REPLY TO:

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Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

JAMES E. "JIM" KING, JR.
President

ALEX DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA
President Pro Tempore

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Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. I respectfully request that the FCC adopt in full the terms of the Consensus Plan and resolve the issues facing our public safety community in an expeditious manner.

Regards,

Alex Diaz de la Portilla

President Pro Tempore – Florida Senate